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Brian Amme, Vegetation EIS Project Manager  
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RE: Draft PEIS and Draft PER

Dear Brian Amme,

On p. 3 of q in the (FAQ) section, the following statement misleads the public: "Expected benefits (from these treatments of vegetation and soil) would include: • reduced wildland fire risk, • improved vegetation condition, • improved fish and wildlife habitat, and • improved watershed function." In truth, instead of benefits, there would be health and safety dangers created by poisoning the vegetation, poisoning the fish and wildlife habitat, and poisoning the water supply within the treated watersheds.

When the entire ecosystem is taken into account, the healthy choice is no herbicide use, which benefits the public, wildlife, plants, land, water and air. The herbicides include several persistent, mobile, and toxic chemicals, including known developmental and reproductive toxins. Proposed herbicides that put applicators at risk are: 2,4-D, bromacil, chlorsulfuron, diquat, diuron, floridone, hexazinone, teburthiruron, and triclopyr. Also included is picloram which is no longer registered for use by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR).

Not only Native People will be poisoned from exposure to these herbicides, but all people using the public lands consuming livestock and herbaceous plants and drinking the contaminated water supply will be poisoned. Herbicide use poses human health risks to hunters, herders, hikers, herbalists, and hired hands applying these hazardous herbicides. Treatment with herbicides in wildland-urban interface areas is particularly dangerous to the health and safety of people who live in proximity to the poisoned areas. The public who consume the unpoisoned animals, the unpoisoned plants from unpolluted soil, the unpolluted water supply and breathe the clean air will benefit from Option C-No Herbicides.

Calling for the reduction of stands of piñon and juniper trees is not acceptable. These are not invasive plants, these are the native trees in the ecosystem of the Santa Fe region where I reside, and in large areas of the Southwest. Poisoning native plants in an ecosystem invites invasive plants to invade and take over. Use non-chemical means of managing BLM lands and choose Option C-No Herbicides.

Sincerely, Janet Began

cc: Governor Bill Richardson, Senator Pete Domenici, Senator Jeff Bingaman and Representative Tom Udall